

HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUNDUP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old Dime & Nickel novels, libraries, and popular story papers.

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HAPPY DAYS

Remember when the Jack Wright stories came out in the Happy Days, way back in the 1900's ? Them were the days. The cover of this issue (not possible to reproduce by mimeograph reprint) was a reproduction of Vol. XVI-No. 409 featuring "Jack Wright and his King of the Clouds", or, "Around the World on Wings." It was from the remarkable collection of Frank T. Fries, 800 W. Market St., Orrville, Ohio-publisher of the Blood and Thunder Magazine.

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STREET & SMITH'S LITERARY ALBUM.

By C.B. Hamilton.

Having just acquired Vol. 1 and 2-Nos. 1 to 52, bound in two vols. of 26 numbers each, it may be of interest to some of the dime novel round-up readers.

The Literary Album, No. 1 of Vol. 1, was published on Dec. 23rd, 1865, with 16 pages, and about 11 x 16 inches in size.

It is a paper for all the family; having some good old time stories on a separate page for the ladies; also one for the younger members of the family. No. 1 starts with "Steel Hand, the Buccaneer" or "The Maiden's Flag of Hope.". The next story, "Leaves from the Journal of an old Doctor." The Premature Burrel, and the rest of the first number is a Miscellaneous collection of short stories, and Woodcuts.

With No.5, the first story was by Francis S. Smith as also was No.6. Many of the other stories also have the authors names...No.12 started the first serial story, "The False Heir", or, "The Bill of the Season", by Mrs. Harriet Consellano, and by the end of Vol.2, three serial stories were running.

Edward S. Ellis was the author of the first page story, in number 51, "Thanksgiving in the Woods". Other authors were: Pricilla Pungent-James Reynolds-Nellie Ames-D. Doyle Clayton-William Comstock-Arthur L. Meserve-Roger Starbuck-Almedia M. Brown-"Buckskin"-Bella French-Ione Irwin-and a few others.

Many of the stories do not give authors, but all the above writers, except Bella French, wrote short stories... Francis S. Smith wrote several short first page stories... The Literary Album has many old time woodcuts, and some of them are full page.

Also, they ran a long ad, for the New York Weekly, and an ad for a paper called, The Phunny Phellow, for sale at all newstands in U.S. and Canada. (Can anyone give any information on The Phunny Phellow, to Mr. Hamilton ?) The publishers name was not given, but may have been Street & Smith...The Phunny Phellow sold for 10¢ per copy, and was run as a monthly.

moon was rising, I met a ghostly
pedlar

Singing for company beneath his ghostly load.

Once, there were velvet lads, with vizards on
their faces.

Riding up to rob me on the great North Road.

Now, my pack is heavy, and my pocket full of
guineas

Chimes like a wedding peal, but little I enjoy
Roads that never echo to the chirrup of their
cantor,
The gay Golden Farmer and the Hereford Boy.

Rogues were they all, but their raid was from
Elfland !
Shod with elfin silver, were the steeds they bestrode.
Merlin buckled on the spurs that wheeled thru
the wet fern
Bright as Jack-o-Lanterns off the great North Road.

Tales were told in country inns, when Turpin rode
to Rippleside !
Puck tuned the fiddle-strings, and country maids grey *
coy,
Tavern doors grew magical when Colonel Jack
might tap at them,
The gay Golden Farmer and the Hereford Boy.

What are you seeking, I asked this honest
pedlar ?
O, Mulled Sack, or Natty Hawes, might ease me of my
load !

Where are they flown then ? Flown where I
follow;
They are gone forever, up the great North Road.

Rogues were they all; but the white dust
assoils them !
Paradise without a spice of deviltry would cloy.
Heavy is my pack, till I meet with Jerry
Abershaw,
The gay Golden Farmer and the Hereford Boy.

—Alfred Noyes
(Famous British Poet)

(Credit cheerfully given to any and all publishers
of this poem.) Sent in by Bob Smeltzer.

OLD KING BRADY.

By George H. Cordier

(continued from the June number)

Old King Brady was the creation of Francis W. Daugherty, an author who, in the writer's humble opinion, just missed being a great writer. In fact, he was a great writer in his own way, but what the writer wishes to enjoy, is, that he fell little short of being in the same class as: Adolphe Belot-E. Gabocian and Conan Doyle as writer of detective fiction; and with Dumas-Capt. Mayne Reid and Fenimore Cooper, in the telling of fascinating stories. The above statement may be questioned, and the writer asked for the reasons for his belief in the superiority of the character of Old King Brady, above the other fiction sleuths who lived in the golden age of Dime Novel Literature; and he would reply that the character is no measly imaginary one, that he has met just such wholesome, kindhearted, courageous types of Irish gentlemen, and what Daugherty did, was to take the type which he must have known well and present it with all its fine traits, and some of its weaknesses, in the role of a detective. Besides this, Daugherty was a most careful writer. We quote from an article in the New York Tribune. But the local color supplied for these tales was far from faked. His library was papered with large maps which he consulted when writing about parts of the country with which he was not familiar, and hundreds of reference books were always at his elbow. Because of this conscientious effort to make his stories accurate, readers of his highly imaginative thrillers came into possession of bits of geographical and historical knowledge that might not have been readily administered in any other form. It was, due to this fact, his bubbles hear say, that his Old King Brady series was popular more than thirty years." In other words, he served solid food with his dessert. The paper goes on to state that he wrote more than 1200 complete detective stories, and many works on scientific subjects.

The writers first introduction to Old King Brady was in the year 1885. It was then the custom of that glorious old paper, The Boys of New York, to send out specimen copies when printing new stories, and one of these came into the writers possession. In it, appeared the opening chapters of "At Midnight on the 11th"-or-"Old King Brady and the Mystery of Pier A", and the first chapters of "The Electric Cyclone"-or-"Wonderful Adventures in No Mans Land," a Frank Reade story. This was in 1885. About two years ago, the writer made a trade for some numbers of The Boys of New York, and to his intense surprise, and delight, there were those two stories, reprinted in 1891, in the numbers he had just acquired. It was indeed a joyful occasion for the writer, as he had wanted those two stories all that long period of time.

The Old King Brady stories not only gave pleasure and entertainment, to the youth of America, but they were famous in other lands, being translated and re-printed in many foreign languages.

(To be continued in chapter 2 of the next issue)

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WHOOPEE ! ! !

Member the NOVEL CATALOGUE, I was bringing out last year ? It IS coming out, this time, and no doubt about it ! And not very far behind this issue of The Round-Up. As soon as it arrives, I'll send out a card, to let you know that it is here, although it was a long time on the way.

How ja like the last issue of Round-Up ? Looks as if the Round-Up was on its last legs, but not quite !

For we are making a fresh start with the New Year, and with this issue, I am just FOUR YEARS OLD. Dogs Time fly ? I'll say it does !

Wishing you all a very Prosperous New Year !

Ye Editor---

Ralph F. Cummings.

MAGAZINES RECEIVED.

Happy Hours Magazine--The Novel Mart--Hobbies--
Modern Game Breeding--The Amateur Mart--Swappers
Friend--Trade & Barter--Blood & Thunder--The
Traveler--The Baltimore Star--Stamps--The Historian--
Collectors Miscellany--Martin's Stamp Journal--Linn's
Weekly Stamp News--The Chaser--Mekeel's Weekly Stamp
News--Swappers & Collectors Brotherhood Magazine--
The Patriot--The American Book Collector--The Grey-
hound--New England Homestead.

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VALLEY NOVEL EXCHANGE--Grafton, Mass.

Jos. PARKS, Printer--Yorkshire, England.

L.MORGAN--3018 25th St., N.E.--Washington, D.C.

JOSEPH POTASKI--Main St., Farnumsville, Mass.

VALLEY NOVEL EXCHANGE--(Had Two Ads.)

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(REPRINT..)

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